

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SCA-01 A-01

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 SS-20 CPR-02 FBIE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SY-10 OPR-02 USSS-00 NSC-10 /133 W

----- 065242

O 080845Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3223

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL STATTGART IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3338

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG US

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF EMBASSY: FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISED.

1. WITH NOTE (STATE 216671 AS MODIFIED) IN HAND, I ARRIVED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AT 1030 NOVEMBER 8 FOR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ONDOGA. ALREADY PRESENT IN MINISTER'S WAITING ROOM WAS FULL MEDIA CREW OF TV-MOVIE AND STILL CAMERAMEN AND PRESS REPORTER. THIS IS NORMAL FOR SESSIONS WITH GENERAL AMIN BUT FIRST TIME TO MY KNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAS HAPPENED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. I IMMEDIATELY MADE ASSUMPTION THAT ONDOGA WAS GOING TO ANNOUNCE OUR EXPULSION FOR BENEFIT OF THE MEDIA.

2. ONDOGA ARRIVED TEN MINUTES LATER ACCOMPANIED BY PROTOCOL
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CHIEF OSEKU AND ANOTHER MINISTRY OFFICER.

ONDOGA SAID THIS WAS SECOND TIME IN TEN DAYS THAT HE HAD HAD TO CALL ME IN. AS CAMERAMEN WENT TO WORK ONDOGA SAID IN GRAVE TONES THAT THERE HAD BEEN SERIES OF SERIOUS INCIDENTS, THREATS, BURGLARIES, AFFECTING THE SSECURITY OF THE UGANDAN MISSION TO THE UN, AND THE GOU INSISTS THAT THE USG DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE AMBASSADOR IBINGIRA'S SITUATION.

3. I SAID I HAD HEARD ABOUT SOME TELEPHONED BOMB THREATS AND INQUIRED IF THESE OTHER INCIDENTS WERE RECENT ONES. ONDOGA SAID THE AMB'S RESIDENCE HAD BEEN BURGLARIZED TWICE, AND THE SECOND OCCURRENCE HAD BEEN REPORTED TO MINISTRY BY CABLE ONLY YESTERDAY. I ASKED IF THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING SIMILAR PROBLEMS. ONDOGA SAID SO FAR ONLY NEW YORK. HE THEN HANDED ME A NOTE TO READ. IT EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE THREATS AND BURGLARIES IN NEW YORK AND CALLED UPON THE USG TO TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE STRICTER PROTECTION FOR THE UGANDAN MISSION TO THE UN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS. WE ARE CABLING TEXT OF NOTE BY SEPTTEL TO DEPT AND USUN ONLY. THE LANGUAGE IS QUITE STRONG BUT OTHERWISE UNIMPEACHABLE.

4. I THEN SAID TO ONDOGA THAT THE USG TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY ITS OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE PROTECTION, BOTH TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON, CONSULATES ELSEWHERE, AND ALL THE MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO THE UN. I SAID I WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM MY GOVERNMENT AND ASK THAT SOMETHING BE DONE TO HELP AMB. IBINGIRA'S SITUATION. ONDOGA SAID A POLICEMAN HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE IN NEW YORK BUT NOW THE PROBLEM WAS THE RESIDENCE. I SAID PERHAPS A POLICEMAN COULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE AMB'S RESIDENCE ALSO TO PROTECT IT FROM BEING BURGLARIZED.

5. I THEN SAID TO ONDOGA THAT I HAD A NOTE TO DELIVER TO HIM ON INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT AND HANDED HIM OUR NOTE INFORMING THE GOU THAT WE ARE CLOSING THE EMBASSY AND ALL AMERICAN OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ARE LEAVING. HE READ IT IN SILENCE WHILE I CHATTED WITH OSEKU ABOUT THE SOVIET RECEPTION OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING. WHEN ONDOGA HAD FINISHED READING THE NOTE I SAID THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ONE THING ORALLY, AND I EXPLAINED TO HIM THE PROCEDURE THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED TO OBTAIN A PROTECTING POWER, A PROCESS THAT CAN BE TIME-CONSUMING. (WHEN I SAID THE WORDS "PROTECTING POWER" OSEKU NEARLY FELL
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OUT OF HIS CHAIR.) I SAID I HOPED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MR. NTIMBA VERY SHORTLY, WITH A REQUEST FOR GOU CONCURRENCE IN THE SELECTION OF A PROTECTING POWER, SO THAT I COULD WRAP THINGS UP AND MAKE A TRANSFER TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PROTECTING POWER BEFORE MY SCHEDULED DEPARTURE SATURDAY EVENING. ONDOGA SAID HE WOULD TELL NTIMBA AND ASKED IF ALL OUR PERSONNEL WOULD BE GONE BY SATURDAY. I SAID YES, ALL THE AMERICANS WOULD BE LEAVING, AND THE LAST

GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED MYSELF, WOULD LEAVE FROM ENTEBBE ON SATURDAY EVENING. WE THEN SHOOK HANDS AND I LEFT.

6. HAVE ADVISED AMB. KOPF OF THE ABOVE. WE AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE NEXT STEP.

KEELEY

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Message Attributes

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